Procurement of foodgrains, rice, wheat, oilseeds and pulses

1891. SHRI A.G. KULKARNI :
DR. BAPU KALDATE :
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed for procurement of foodgrains particularly rice, wheat, oilseeds and pulses for the year 1988-1989?

(b) the procurement made upto the 1st February, 1989?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA) : (a) and (b) No targets are fixed for procurement of rice and wheat as these foodgrains are procured against voluntary offers by farmers under Government's price support scheme. Procurement of rice and wheat during the year 1988-89 upto 1st February, 1989 was as under:—

Rice :	5.4 million tonnes
Wheat :	6.5 million tonnes

Information in regard to oilseeds and pulses is being collected.

Newsprint Policy

1892. SHRI A.G. KULKARNI:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article published in 'Sunday Observer' dated January 21, 1989 under the caption "Newsprint policy makes bad news"

(b) whether Government are aware that with the present newsprint policy inclusive of imports and indigenous supplies has inadvertantly brought the escalation in the prices of newspapers which is not a healthy sign; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to rectify distortions ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTRY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is true that the prices of imported newsprint have shown a rising trend in the recent past but increase in the prices of newspapers may not be wholly attributed to this factor.

(c) The indigenous newsprint prices have remained static since January, 1988. Government have little control over the prices of imported newsprint.

Loss to NCCF on rejection of rice by foreign buyers

1893. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge quantity of rice was rejected by the foreign buyers of NCCF at Kandla Port during 1981-82 being of inferior and sub-standard quality;

(b) if so, what was the total loss suffered by NCCF on this account;

(c) whether the NCCF was obliged to give a rebate of US $1000 00 per M.T. of rice for this reason thereby resulting in huge loss to the Federation;

(d) whether the rice so procured was purchased under the supervision of the then Regional Manager, Chandigarh who was responsible for not enforcing proper quality control while making purchases